

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CHIANG 00102 190419Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /044 W

-----190429Z 002707 /14

O 190353Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 451

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3052

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. SUMMARY: SOMEONE FIRED ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADES (RPG) AT THE THAI MINISTER OF INTERIOR, SAMAK SUNDARAVEJ IN LAMPANG LAST NIGHT. NO ONE WAS INJURED. SO FAR POLICE HAVE NO CLUES AS TO WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK.

2. LOCAL SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED MOST OF THE DETAILS IN THIS MORNING'S BANGKOK POST STORY WHICH REPORTS AN ATTACK ON THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, SAMAK SUNDARAVEJ IN THE CITY OF LAMPANG LAST NIGHT. THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE AT 10:40 P.M. IN FRONT OF THE LOCAL TV STATION WHERE SAMAK HAD JUST APPEARED ON A "REPORT TO THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM. SOMEONE FIRED WHAT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THREE RPGS AT THE CAR IN WHICH SAMAK WAS RIDING. THE CAR WAS SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BUT NEITHER SAMAK NOR ANY ONE ELSE IN THE CAR WAS INJURED.

3. POLICE HAVE RECOVERED A TAIL FIN FROM A GRENADE, BUT THERE IS NOT YET ANY POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE KIND OF GROUND USED IN THE ATTACK.

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4. AS OF YET WE HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT WHO MAY HAVE MADE THE ATTACK. THE CITY OF LAMPANG IS SO FAR FROM ANY AREAS WHERE INSURGENTS ARE KNOWN TO BE OPERATING THAT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THIS WAS A CPT INSPIRED ATTACK. IT IS POSSIBLE THE ATTACK MIGHT BE CONNECTED TO A RATHER BITTER DISPUTE IN LAMPANG BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND THE LAMPANG PRESS. AS

A RESULT OF THAT DISPUTE, TWO LAMPANG NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN
CLOSED DOWN. AND SAMAK HAS LOTS OF OTHER ENEMIES, SOME OF
WHICH ARE PROBABLY CAPABLE OF TRYING THIS SORT OF THING.
WHATEVER THE MOTIVES BEHIND THE ATTACK, SAMAK'S
APPEARANCE AT THE TV STATION WAS WELL ADVERTISED BEFORE
HAND AND SOMEONE WITH A GRIEVENCE HAS PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY
TO SET UP AN AMBUSH. WHILE THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S RECENT
CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL WEAPONS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY
SLOWED DOWN THE TRADE IN THOSE ITEMS, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE
TO OBTAIN THE KIND OF WEAPONS APPARENTLY USED AGAINST THE
MINISTER ALMOST ANY PLACE IN NORTH THAILAND.
TANNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CHIANG00102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-0479
Format: TEL
From: CHIANG MAI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770343/aaaabkwr.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac9d5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3059452
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTACK ON MINISTER OF INTERIOR
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH, (SAMAK SUNDARAVEUJ)
To: STATE BANGKOK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac9d5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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